

# LONG ISLAND FORUM



Gerritsen's Tide Mill Dam, Kings County. (See next page)

## TABLE of CONTENTS

OLIVER CHARLICK, R. R. PRESIDENT  
SETAUKET'S CAROLINE CHURCH  
ANDRE AT EAST HAMPTON  
BEACHCOMBING'S AN ART  
SOME LETTERS FROM LONG AGO

John Tooker  
Albert G. Rapp, M. D.  
Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood  
Julian Denton Smith  
Kate Wheeler Strong

LETTERS, REVIEWS, Etc.

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**THE  
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FOR LONG ISLANDERS EVERYWHERE

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 post office at Amityville, New York, under the Act of  
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**PAUL BAILEY, Publisher-Editor**  
*Contributing Editors*

Clarence A. Wood, LL.M., Ph.D.  
 Malcolm M. Willey, Ph.D.  
 John C. Huden, Ph.D.  
 Julian Denton Smith, Nature

Tel. AMityville 4-0554

**Dutch Built Tide Mills**

The Dutch who settled the west  
 end of the island built very few  
 if any windmills. Those at the east  
 end are all of English design.

The Dutch built tide mills, the  
 last one of which to stand, we be-  
 lieve, was in Kings County on the  
 westerly bank of Gerritsen's Creek,  
 also known as the Strom Kill. It  
 was destroyed by fire, supposedly  
 started by vandals, in 1934.

This old structure was built some  
 time before 1756 and was equipped



Gerritsen's Mill

with wooden machinery, beltings  
 of leather and very large revolving  
 millstones used to grind grain.

The basin beside which it stood  
 would fill up at high tide to be  
 confined behind a dam which  
 spanned the narrowest part of the  
 creek. A gate equipped with rat-  
 chet wheel, could be opened by hand  
 to cause the water to flow out and  
 turn the millwheel which turned  
 the millstones.

Gerritsen's Creek was named for  
 Hugh Gerretsen (Gerritsen) who  
 prior to 1645 owned the land that  
 included the site of the mill. He  
 built the first mill there before

Continued on Page 8

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## Oliver Charlick, R. R. President

It is very difficult from the little material available to form a correct list of the men who served as presidents or receivers of The Long Island Railroad from the time of incorporation in 1834 until it became a part of the Pennsylvania Railroad System in 1900. It is still more difficult to find out what years some of the earlier ones served. One account names John A. King, son of Rufus King and Governor of New York State in 1856-7, as president of the Brooklyn & Jamaica Railroad Co., but gives no dates. The facilities of that railroad were leased by the L. I. R. R. Co., in 1834 for a term of years.

The first three names on our list are George B. Fisk (or Fiske), Isaac Haviland and James H. Weeks, the latter described as a Quaker. Oliver Charlick followed him and was one of two presidents who served long terms. Henry O. Havemeyer was elected president early in 1875 but held office for only about a year when the Poppenhusen family, consisting of Conrad, Adolph and Herman C., secured a controlling interest in the L.I.R.R. Co., by paying \$1,750,000.

The railroad went bankrupt in the fall of 1877 and Col. Thomas R. Sharp was appointed receiver, and was also called president. Austin Corbin bought the stock of the railroad from Drexel, Morgan & Co., in December 1880 and on Jan. 1, 1881 he replaced Col. Sharp as receiver and president. The four years between the death of Austin Corbin in June 4, 1896 and the taking over of control by The Pennsylvania R. R. in 1900 were covered by two presidents, William H. Baldwin and William F. Potter.

The career of Austin Corbin particularly as it affected the L. I. R. R. was briefly sketched by me in the August 1951 number of the Forum,

*John Tooker*

and we propose at this time to tell of another president whose traits of character were entirely different from those of Corbin. That man was Oliver Charlick whose imperious ways won for him from the newspapers of his time the title of "King Oliver."

Oliver Charlick was born near Hempstead in 1813 as stated by one source, but since that date does not agree with the age given at his death, and also hardly allows time for the many activities he was engaged in, it is more likely that his birth year was either 1809 or 1810. His business experi-

York, built the Eighth Avenue street car line and operated it for seven years. He had it paying 12% dividends. He re-entered politics and became a member of the Board of Police Commissioners of New York City. It was said of him that his career as a politician did not add to his personal reputation nor did it win for his memory the regard paid to a respectable mechanic.

He gave up his interests in street cars in 1860 and took up steam railroading particularly on Long Island and was president of one of the roads running between Hunters Point and Flushing. Once while in charge of that road he reduced



"Old Henry Ruggles"

ence was acquired in the wholesale grocery firm of Gardiner & Howell in New York City, and when that firm failed he went into business for himself only to lose everything in the great fire of 1835 which destroyed the greater part of downtown New York. He started up again as a grocer and ship chandler.

In 1843 he entered the stormy political field of New York City, was elected alderman, and sometimes acted as mayor during the absence of Mayor Havemeyer. He went to California in 1849 and was in business there for 18 months, then returned to New

the fare between Hunters Point and Flushing from 25 cents to 8 cents.

On April 14, 1863 Oliver Charlick and his associates were elected to the Board of Directors of the L.I.R.R. Co., and he became its President. It was said at the time that their sole policy was to make money.

Several different branches of the railroad were built while Charlick was president, the longest one from Manor (Manorville) to Sag Harbor which was begun in 1869. In many of the road building operations Charlick clashed with the public and always managed to

have his way. The people of Huntington offered to donate land in the village for a railroad station but Oliver Charlick refused the offer and that is why Huntington railroad station is a mile and a half or more from the village.

When the South Side R. R. Co., was building its road from Patchogue to Jamaica in 1867 it asked the L.I.R.R. Co., to receive its cars at Jamaica and take them to the western terminal but Charlick with characteristic stubbornness refused, so the South Side built its own station at Beaver St., Jamaica and continued its tracks to Bushwick where its passengers were ferried to New York from South 8th St., Brooklyn. There were many more such cases where Charlick opposed the popular will.

In the fall of 1874 Oliver Charlick was suffering from dropsy and an incurable disease of the kidneys and was growing steadily worse. The following taken from a South Shore paper is a sample of the grim editorial humor of those days. For two weeks in succession the paper reported the progress of Charlick's illness and the third week printed this item: "Oliver Charlick buys two quarts of strawberries, not dead yet!"

Early in 1875, because of Charlick's serious illness and the death while in office of Mayor Havemeyer who held the largest block of L.I.R.R. stock, the directors met and decided it was time for a change so they elected Henry O. Hayemeyer president.

Oliver Charlick died at his Flushing home on Friday April 30, 1875, and we quote his obituary in full as it appeared in the same paper that printed the item about the strawberries.

"Oliver Charlick, late president of the L.I.R.R. died at his Flushing home on Friday morning last at the age of 66. Mr. Charlick was a self made man of indomitable will and energy. In all his business dealings he never allowed his

Continued on page 12

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## Setauket's Caroline Church

THE Caroline Church of Setauket, in Brookhaven Town, which ranks high among Colonial churches in beauty and historic interest, was built in 1729 and has been in continuous use since. Its founders were descendants of a small group of Church of England people who came to Long Island from Massachusetts in 1655. These early settlers had established an independent religious organization and for nearly thirty years had followed the Anglican Service. Then, for reasons unknown, the first Church of England congregation on Long Island went out of existence.

The movement did not die out, however. In 1723 a new Episcopal parish was organized at Setauket. Its first rector was James Wetmore, a graduate of Yale, formerly ordained as a Congregational minister. In 1722, he and three other instructors at Yale, having voiced doubts of the validity of their ordination, sailed to England and were there ordained as priests in the Church of England. While at Setauket, Wetmore introduced Dr. Samuel Johnson to the parish. This man was one of the four "converts" from Yale and later became President of King's College, now Columbia.

Rev. Thomas Standard, of Taunton, England, a former physican, was the next rector. In 1725 he began gathering funds for the erection of a church building. By 1729 a sufficient sum had been collected and the Rev. Alexander Campbell, the new rector, supervised the building of the church which has served the town for 225 years. Since the original parish had been called Christ's Church, the new building was given that name, but a year later the name was changed. Wilhelmina Caroline, Queen of George II of Eng-

*Albert G. Rapp, M. D.*

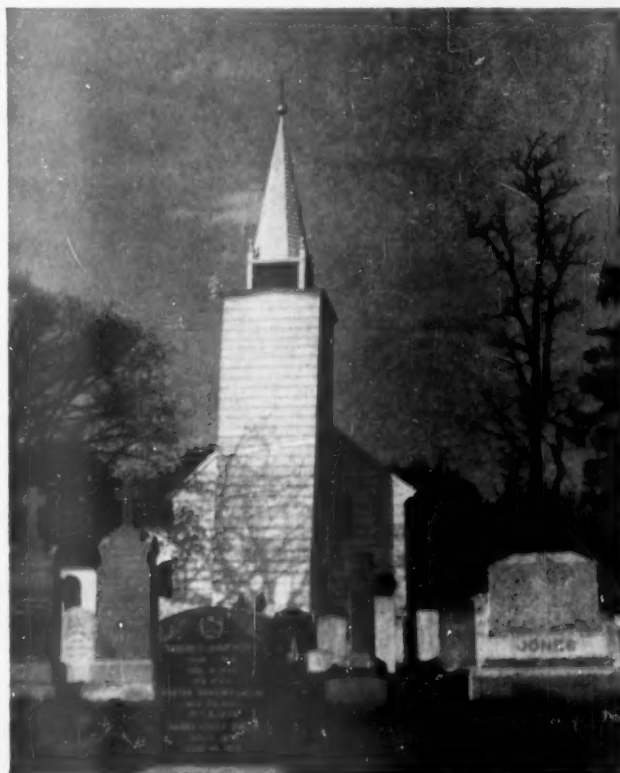
land, sent the new church some fine altar cloths and a Communion Service consisting of a chalice, paten and alms-basin, which are still used on special occasions. In her honor, the parish became the Caroline Church.

During the Revolutionary War, the "Battle of Setauket" was fought under the walls of this church, Aug. 22, 1777. The building still bears the marks of bullets fired on that day. It is said that some of the wounded were cared for in the church while the battle went on outside.

In 1814, the Rev. Charles Seabury, son of Samuel Seabury, the first Episcopal Bishop in America, became

rector and served for thirty years. It has been assumed that his father visited him in Setauket and preached in Caroline Church during his son's pastorate. This is in error, since Bishop Seabury died in New London, Connecticut Feb. 25, 1796. However, Bishop Seabury (before his consecration) served parishes in Jamaica, Flushing, Newtown and Huntington, and did preach at Setauket at an earlier date. His own father, also Samuel, served at Hempstead and Setauket while the future Bishop was his student and they sometimes journeyed together from one church to the other.

During Charles Seabury's last years, a young priest named William Adams served



Historic Caroline Church

as acting rector. He had been a missionary in Wisconsin and returned there later to help settle the town of Nashotah. Samuel Seabury 3rd also lived at Setauket and followed in the footsteps of his father, Charles, being ordained in the Episcopal Church in 1826. He was a frequent visitor at Caroline Church and his early training and background prepared him for a distinguished career on Long Island.

The Church building has undergone many alterations in the course of its existence. In 1937, through generous gifts by Mrs. Frank Melville and Mr. Ward Melville, the Caroline Church was restored to its original Colonial beauty, with added service facilities.

The restoration revealed many facts about the old building, hitherto unknown to the present generation. A false ceiling and walls were removed. These had been added a hundred years ago to make it easier to heat the church. Lunettes of wall plaster were found at each end, above the hung ceiling, demonstrating the existence of a previous "Barrel Ceiling." The present ceiling is a copy of this.

The restoration also exposed huge hand-hewn timbers of oak with white-wash still on them, as solid as the day they were put in place. More columns and beams were uncovered in the vestibule and ship's knees in the upper corners. The latter show the influence of the old ship's carpenters in the days when Setauket was a fishing village. The floors are covered with wide pine boards, up to 16 inches in width. The gallery at the rear was added in 1744 and furnished pews for the slaves. It is still called "the slave gallery". The narrow benches with their forward slanting backs prove that the slaves were not expected to go to sleep during the service! The supporting beams of the gallery are arched like a ship's deck, also reflecting the ship-building influence.

In the interior, the lower half of the east wall, behind

the altar, is panelled in Colonial style. The altar, pews and pulpit are of similar design. The inner walls and ceilings and panels are painted off-white in color while the old beams and columns are painted to simulate white-washing. The old oil lamps have been restored, but cleverly wired for electricity.

The old organ, now in the parish house, was probably imported from England prior to the Revolution. It first served in St. Ann's Church in Brooklyn, the oldest Protestant Episcopal Church in King's County. It was brought to Setauket about a hundred years ago. Two antique Chertan chairs in the sanctuary were gifts of the Rev. Charles Seabury.

The exterior of the church is practically unchanged. The warped walls and the bullet holes in the belfry can still be seen. The weather-vane atop the steeple has the British Union Jack as part of its design.

The simplicity of architecture and beauty of line of this grand old church attract many visitors. The Duke of Windsor attended service there a few years ago and in 1942, after his consecration, Bishop De Wolfe made one of his first official visitations to Setauket. He preached and confirmed at Caroline Church in the morning, then proceeded to St. John's Church in Oakdale, where he preached and confirmed in the afternoon. Since this was the exact route often taken by earlier Bishops, the day was crowded with memories of early American Church history.

Mr. Ernest Clowes' reference to a "Circus of 1846" at the east end may have something new there, but it was old stuff in Queens County even before the Revolution.

George P. Grant,  
Jamaica.

At Great Pond, north of South-old village, S. M. Jewell in 1899 caught a torup (Indian for snapping turtle) that weighed 25 pounds. Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood, Largo, Florida.

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## Andre At East Hampton

**D**ESTINY decreed that Major John Andre whose life the inexorable rules of war summarily terminated in 1780 should be attended during his last days by a young medic of East Hampton lineage whom under the strict application of the same harsh code the brilliant young English officer had in his power to have arrested in the home of his father where Andre was then quartered.

It was a strange coincidence also that in an earlier phase of the Revolution Andre should have once shared a bed and joined during much of the night in mutual discussion of subjects alien to war with another young American who later in the performance of military duty voted the hangman's noose around Andre's neck.

Especially intriguing is the fact that neither of the chance bedfellows knew until dawn that the one was a prisoner on his way south to personal restraint under parole and that the other was an American officer en route to the north to move artillery captured from the British in the Champlain valley for subsequent use at the siege of Boston.

At the surrender of the British at Fort Mifflin on Oct. 18, 1775 and the fall of Fort Mifflin on Nov. 3 following, Major Andre was captured and stripped of everything except the picture of his sweetheart Honora Sneyd, which he concealed in his mouth.

Under orders of the Continental Congress Andre with the men of his company were sent under guard to Pennsylvania by Major James Livingston, the same officer who a few years later was indirectly the cause of Andre's final and fatal arrest.

As Major Andre came down

*Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood*

the Hudson Valley he encountered near Haverstraw an American officer named Knox. Both young men were about the same age. Both had given up the pursuits of trade for the profession of arms and both had made a study of his new occupation.

Both were acquainted with the French language, Andre's father being a Frenchman.

and to hold no correspondence on American affairs.

He established friendly relations with the people within his bounds that were long afterwards perpetuated in the memory of their descendants. He taught some of their children to draw, his favorite designs being studies of the human figure. In some circles he became a welcome guest and frequently shared in their pleasure parties.



Old Gardiner Manorhouse, Destroyed By Fire

Early in life the American had been a bookseller. At eighteen Knox was chosen captain of a volunteer company of grenadiers. His talents were early discovered in the American army.

The respective military status of the two bedfellows was not revealed by either until they were about to part in the morning.

The intelligence and refinement of Andre left an impression on the mind of Knox and the memory of their nocturnal intercourse gave additional bitterness to the later painful duty of the American officer.

As an enemy officer Major Andre was paroled in Pennsylvania, first at Lancaster and then at Carlisle, he to keep within six miles of his abode

Towards the end of 1775 most of the prisoners taken by each side in Canada were exchanged. Among them was Andre. Thereafter the changing scenes of the war took Andre to Boston and later to Long Island.

At East Hampton Andre was quartered in the home of Col. Abraham Gardiner. All Long Island was then in the undisputed control of the British. While Andre was there Dr. Nathaniel Gardiner, son of Col. Gardiner, made a secret visit to his father's house.

Andre did not tell his host until afterwards that he knew at the time of the physician's presence. He explained that as he had not actually met the

Continued on Page 14

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## Letters From Our Readers

Continued From Page 2

1685 in which year it was referred to in the Dongan Patent. Just how long it stood, we do not know, but a long line of his descendants owned the site and served as millers.

During the Revolution one Samuel Gerretsen was the miller and was forced by British troops, billeted nearby, to grind grain for their horses. One night however his millstones disappeared and although he was suspected of sabotage they were not recovered until after the war when the stones were dragged up from the bottom of the creek where Samuel had dumped them.

### Tappen Data Wanted

Who was the father of Jeremiah Tappen, late of Sheephead Bay, born about 1809, died October 14, 1864. Buried in a Quaker Cemetery in Jericho, L. I. Reinterred November 9, 1883 in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. Also seek names of father's brothers and sisters, if any. George C. Stephen, (Descendant), 87 Dartmouth Road, Manhasset, L. I. (2).

Enjoy the Forum very much.  
W. A. Mobius, East Meadow, L. I.

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### Miss Quick's Poems

"Interludes" is the title of another book of poems by Dorothy Quick, published by Farrar, Straus & Young. Like her previously published collections, many of these have appeared in various national publications. But to have them in one compact volume, handily classified as to subject, is indeed a treat. We like especially Miss Quick's poems on nature, dealing with her own observations, but this collection includes such a wide variety of

Continued on page 10

### Topping Family Data

After 18 years' work, my Topping Genealogy is nearing completion. Would appreciate hearing from anyone having Bible or other record of Topping birth, death, marriage, etc., not yet sent in, for use in same. Charles E. Topping, 1423 Mill Av., Brooklyn 34, N.Y. (1)

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## Beachcombing's An Art

**B**EACHCOMBING has always held considerable attraction for me since one high school day when I saw a man pick up an elegant diamond ring from close by a spile at Roche's Bathing Pavilion in Far Rockaway. He was a total stranger and surely not given to beachcombing as a profession, in fact he was very well dressed and wore a derby jauntily. He carried a cane with a silver head and poked around aimlessly. Suddenly in simply scratching the wet sand around a pile he uncovered the ring. I have never again seen such a find nor have I ever lost the impetus the find gave me.

Beachcombing, the word itself, always bothers me. It seems to have the hint of dishonorable occupation, not on a par with bank robbing but certainly equal to pilfering tomatoes from a neighbor's garden or snitching watermelons. It seems a form of self-employment to be indulged in when all other forms of livelihood had become extremely unbearable and undesirable. It smacks of highly questionable company.

I tried a turn at beachcombing after I saw that ring come to light but in the first five minutes my take amounted to exactly nothing and I tired and gave up. I have never been discouraged in hunting unclaimed items elsewhere. Pennies, nicknacks, trinkets in gutters have continually dazzled me and I have never come to look upon streetcombing with as much eyebrow raising as beachcombing. Streetcombing seems a more acceptable sport.

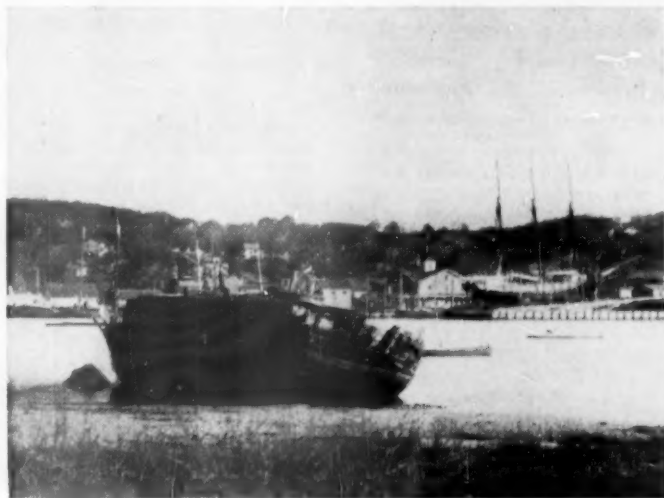
I wish I had kept a list of the things I have picked out of gutters. At the top of the list would be a silver cuff link with an ornamented S engraved on it. I never came upon the mate and so had the

*Julian Denton Smith*  
*Secretary Nassau County Historical Society*

link made into a tieclasp when those things were very popular. It had teeth added on the under side which stabbed into the tie held by a spring against other teeth on a lower, matching piece. I felt very proud of that clasp but it was not long before another streetcomber found it — the spring lost its tension rapidly.

Streetcombing flourished with my gang in the very earl-

to me as a source of off-the-record gain. Perhaps it happened when I came upon a fifty-cent piece poised atop a little tee of sand just waiting to be picked up. That was down on Jones Beach one cold winter Sunday with the wind howling out of the northwest. I pressed along head down and body braced against the wind. My cap came close to my eyes to ward off the sand as it whisked across the beach. I watched more where my next step would be than anything else. Shells, broken pieces of



iest days of moving pictures. Our weekly allowances could stand nothing nearer the screen than seats in the back three rows. Occasionally Lady Luck smiled up from the gutter and by pooling our allowances and gleanings we could get in the back row of the other playhouse in town and watch some vaudeville along with the pictures. I wonder now if a fond parent did not plant those gleanings for at times their appearance could have been a bit suspicious.

I cannot put my finger on the exact date that beachcombing again presented itself

glass, bits of metal rested on tight mounds of sand perhaps half an inch above the level of the beach — the weight of the objects being enough to compress the sand beneath and hold it in place against the wind while surrounding sands blew away. On one such tee the half dollar lay, tails up, and a bit greenish from the action of the salt water. Before coming away that Sunday I found a nickel and a penny. The penny had waited a long time to be found — it had turned black.

A few winters ago I came

*Continued on page 15*

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## Letters From Our Readers

Continued from page 8

subjects that anyone who likes poetry at all is pretty sure to find some of special appeal.

The author, a native of western Long Island and a summer resident since childhood of East Hampton, has the rare gift of being also a writer of novels, a columnist and a critic. She will be remembered by many long-time Forum readers for her eye-witness account shortly after the Hurricane of 1938 through which she passed at her summer home amid East Hampton's ocean-front sand-dunes. James Branch Cabell refers to Miss Quick as "a true poet, in addition to being a superb critic," while John Hall Wheelock says of her poetry that "it reveals fresh depths of insight as well as technical maturity."

"Interludes" is listed at \$3 and may be obtained from the publishers or by addressing the Forum.

## Peperidge Chopping Blocks

I for one am glad that Julian Smith identified Long Island's own native holly as the grand old peperidge tree. Anyone whoever used a section of peperidge trunk for a chopping block knows how useful the wood is for that purpose. Not so awfully hard, but the twisted grain, running in every direction, made splitting it almost impossible.

Harold F. Dickinson,  
Jamaica.

## Deacon Elisha Ackerly

Some time ago I read an interesting story in the Forum by your Nature Editor, Julian Denton Smith, of an old-time melodian used by the Freeport Methodists. It was just about a century ago, during the pastorate of Rev. Theodore Hunt (1849-1858), that the Patchogue Congregational Church installed a "modern, up-to-date melodian." It was installed in the gallery of the church and a choir was organized under the

Continued on next page

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## Letters From Our Readers

Continued from Page 10

direction of Elisha Ackerly who was also deacon of the church. Deacon Ackerly was also among those who labored for a new church



Deacon Ackerly

building, the third, which was dedicated November 27, 1855. I believe that it stood at the corner of Ocean avenue and Main street.

G. F. Booth.  
Far Rockaway

Mr. Alonzo Gibbs certainly rang the bell with his Gold Piece Tree in the December Forum. (Miss) Katherine R. Dumper, Levittown.

I'm delighted Dr. Wood put his finger of authority on the rascality of John Scott of Southampton, "leading colonial swindler". Every once in a while some so-called scholar pays tribute to that old rascal. (Mrs.) Grace W. Axtmann, Hicksville.

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## Oliver Charlick

Continued from page 4

regard for the welfare or convenience of others to interfere with his own. His policy towards Long Island and its people was never a liberal one, nor calculated to make him popular with the patrons of the road. Now that he is gone we would not indulge a harsh word towards a man whom few of our people regarded kindly. Whatever his faults or mistakes, they are better buried with him. Long Island has outlived Oliver Charlick and under the new management of the railroad he so long controlled we may confidently expect far better and greater results."

The will of Oliver Charlick dated November 25, 1874 was admitted to probate in June 1875. He must have had a little human kindness in his nature for a codicil dated

March 30, 1875 was attached to the will making provision for two faithful employees, one of them being his coachman. His estate was estimated to be worth between two and three million dollars.

When the Poppenhusens were trying to get control of the L.I.R.R. stock they had considerable difficulty in persuading Mrs. Charlick to dispose of her shares. She also threatened to sue the L.I.R.R. for salary due her husband, claiming that he had not drawn any from the treasury of the railroad in several years.

The hope for better management of the L.I.R.R. as expressed in Charlick's obituary had to wait six years for fulfillment when on January 1, 1881 a new and different type of railroad president appeared on the scene whose name was Austin Corbin.

## Forum Stories Cited

New York State History, quarterly of the State Historical Association, includes a number of Forum articles in a list compiled by James Taylor Dunn, Association Librarian, as of special interest to members.

The articles cited, from the June, July, August and September issues of the Forum are Rural L. I.'s Oldest Bank, and Whaling's Expanding Years, by Paul Bailey; Trap Fishing 1860 to 1950, by Eugene S. Griffing; Grist Mill at Wading River, by Evelyn Rowley Meier; Rufus King, Patriot, by Marion F. Overton; Hello Girls of Long Ago, by John Tooker; Southold's John Ledyard, and Amagansett's Judge Conkling, by Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood.

## Likes Mrs. Steffens' Writings

I wish Mrs. Emily B. Steffens would write oftener. Her style is delightful and she always has something worthwhile to report. (Mrs.) Clarabelle Hoskins, Long Beach, L. I.

We hope you get out your articles on L. I. whaling in pamphlet form. Gus Wessel, Whitestone, L.I.

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## Some Letters From Long Ago

**A**T a meeting of Mayflower Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, on September 24, 1831, Miss Corinne Tyler read some letters which her great - great - grandfather in England had written to his son William Bacon in Patchogue. The latter became Patchogue's postmaster in 1807 and for the first quarter his office showed earnings amounting to the large sum of \$1.06! The second quarter, however, it did decidedly better—\$3.50.

On February 9, 1803, four years before he became postmaster, Bacon received a letter from his father in England containing some good advice which I imagine stood him in good stead. His father wrote:

"Dear Bill—I sincerely beg you will be very industrious and inform yourself in spelling. Surely you have a dictionary. Spend every leisure minute and you will find much pleasure when accomplished in that desirable art, to spell well. We beg you to write us by first opportunity and inform us of your intention, whether you expect to come next summer and stop awhile. We are very sorry for the loss of your watch; hope it will be recovered by your name being engraved upon it. I find you have robbers as well as we have in this country."

In a letter dated November 28, 1808, the father speaks of Napoleon as "this Corsican tyrant," and adds "So this gentleman is off for Spain. It appears strange that no one can put a ball through him. Am fearful (we) shall have no peace while he lives. Am apprehensive much blood will be shed before the war is at an end."

I have previously quoted from the letters of the Lloyd family of the Manor of Queens Village (Lloyd's Neck in Huntington Town) who like many

*Kate Wheeler Strong*


other families of the early days owned slaves. One Paschel Nelson wrote Henry Lloyd in February 1725 that his

(Nelson's) sister was much worried about her negroes who had been hired out to the Dutch. It seems that these slaves were spending so much on their clothes that there was



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hardly any money left of their wages to be paid the owner. Also, that they were being treated so well there was danger of them being completely spoiled. However, one slave named Jack, a butcher, was paying his owner 12 lbs. a year and still taking care of himself.

The Lloyds had a slave named Obium who must have given them trouble for they had to pay the sheriff for recovering a horse which Obium had run away with. Evidently they also got Obium back as well as the horse, for his name appears subsequently in the Lloyd papers. Obium lived for a time in Boston where he had been hired from the Lloyds by one John Nelson. When the slave was returned to Henry Lloyd on Lloyd's Neck, Nelson sent a list of the clothes he wore and carried for fear he might sell some of them on the way back. The list, still preserved, included a great coat, a double-breasted jacket, and a new coat all lined; also two pairs of cloth britches, five shirts ("which may need mending"), and two pairs of stockings. Nelson added that he found Obium did best when given plenty of praise.

### Andre at East Hampton

Continued from page 7

son of his host he had refrained from arresting Dr. Gardiner.

On leaving East Hampton Major Andre and Col. Gardiner exchanged wine glasses. Andre's glass was long preserved in the Manor House on Gardiner's Island.

Some two years later the tables were turned. Andre was then again a prisoner and the termination of his confinement was not parole but death. At Tappan Dr. Gardiner was detailed by General Washington to attend the unfortunate British officer during his last days of life.

On a beautiful October afternoon in 1780 Andre suffered the fate of a spy. A tory of the Ramapo Valley then a prisoner in the hands of the

Revolutionists purchased his freedom by clumsily performing the task of hangman.

As early as 1778 patches of wild growth pockmarked many areas of Long Island where lay buried the body of a soldier who had been slain in battle.

So laid undisturbed by the plough for forty years under but three feet of earth the body of Major Andre. In 1821 his remains were removed to England's Hall of Fame — Westminster Abbey.

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## Bailey's Long Island History

A limited number of sets of the Long Island History, compiled by Paul Bailey and published last year by the Lewis Historical Publishing Company of New York, has been made available through the Long Island Forum at one-third off the publishers' price.

This drastic reduction from the original price of \$46.50 is made possible by eliminating volume 3 which consists entirely of biographical sketches.

Volumes 1 and 2 comprise the complete History as compiled by Editor Bailey and written by leading authorities in every field, consisting of more than 1000 pages, 43 chapters and 200 illustrations.

These handsomely printed and bound deluxe books (size 8x10¾ inches) will be sent, while they last, in the same order that applications are received. Price \$30.

Besides the complete history of the island, from its discovery, including chapters on geo-

logy and archaeology, there are separate chapters on each of the towns in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, the history of the leading church denominations, whaling, fishing, shell fisheries, agriculture, medicine, banking, education, aviation and many other subjects.

Long Island Birdlife is compiled by Edwin Way Teale, nationally known authority; the island's mammals, by Dr. W. J. Hamilton, Cornell zoologist. The most extensive coverage of the island's Indians ever printed was prepared by John H. Morice. Among the authors represented are J. Russel Sprague, Dr. Oscar G. Darlington, Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood, Miss Jacqueline Overton, Rev. John K. Sharp, Chester R. Blakelock, Osborn Shaw, Herbert F. Ricard, Preston R. Bassett, Robert R. Coles, Halsey B. Knapp, Nancy Boyd Willey, Mary E. Bell—in all more than forty such authorities.

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## Beachcombing's An Art

Continued from page 9

upon a souvenir spoon from the World's Fair. I had not bought one at the Fair and always regretted it. Upon cleaning the spoon I found it to be of reasonably good silver and with typical World's Fair symbols on the handle. I am delighted with that find.

Beach sands shift around and bring to light all sorts of things. The most common articles are children's toys — pails, shovels, rattles, trains, cars and balls. Grown-ups, too, lose things in the sand — necklace chains, rings, pocket knives, eye glasses, picnic utensils, wrist watches, keys, bottle openers, jigger sets, and a great assortment of coins, charms and pocket keepsakes.

One of the beneficial aspects of beachcombing is a by-product — a force for slimming. No one can do any beachcombing without assuming an angle of 90° much of the time. The angle folds the stomach in with every bend until it becomes sore and its owner proceeds to squat and stoop. This change in posture calls into play further muscles to continue the folding. Amateur beachcombers can usually be spotted by the more or less constant caressing they bestow on their bellies. That gesture makes a good trade mark or sign of the avocation.

Beachcombing is fast be-

coming an art, at least on Jones Beach where it is practiced with mathematical precision and the aid of allied sciences. I am greatly handicapped right at the start by bifocals. The lower part is good for reading and the upper for distance. The footage from eyes to sand is not good thru either upper or lower. The upper part is better, but I need to bring my head forward more than a right angle or I am looking against the division lines.

Before good beachcombers enter upon the sand they contemplate and consider the contours and rolls of the beach, the windage, the angle of sunlight, and the top wash of the tide. This can be done from the boardwalk or a dune. There he lays out his routing, mentally calculating drift, backing and fillings, and compensation for optical allusions.

The good beachcomber starts off on a straight line scrutinizing the sand five or six feet on either side. He will come back on a line ten or twelve feet away and parallel to the first track. This working back and forth adding distance with every trip continues over the beach limited only by time and

the will to do. Often on especially productive ground the beachcomber will crisscross the lines by traveling back and forth at right angles. When a highly technical beachcomber finishes with an expanse of beach his tracks in the sand resemble the geometric stitchings on an old patchwork quilt.

Some combers believe in confusing competitors and on-lookers. They stoop and appear to pick things up in rapid succession only to very obviously toss them away as though pieces of shell, bottle caps or fruit pits. They never pick up anything without throwing something away. It is very difficult to determine when a good comber actually makes a profitable lift as he will always toss something off as he straightens up. The amateur upon finding a single cent will make a big show of getting it into his pocket. The practiced beachcomber never discloses how good the pickings are and thus he discourages competition in the immediate area. If by any slip of the tongue he should divulge a figure as being his profit for the day, move the decimal point two places to the right



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Late this last summer (1953) a brand new object appeared in the 'lost and found'. The city subways were about to up the fare to 15c and had begun to sell slugs which would work the turnstiles. A day or two after the slugs went on sale they turned up in the beachcombers' take. Personally I have enjoyed a couple of free rides on the subway via Jones Beach sands.

Occasionally efficiency shines forth among beachcombers. The first Saturday after the beach closed last summer a man appeared on the beach with an old wooden-toothed garden rake. All day long he patiently raked and combed the sand. He had an easy motion and a steady gait which I never saw him alter. It must have been a profitable day for him because he came back again Sunday and I saw him carefully raking as long as there was any light.

If any reader considers the sideline of beachcombing he might figure that as a beginner he should pick up his toll gate fee in two hours of meandering on Jones Beach sand. Older artists will sneer at that as poor chicken feed. Then again a reader might trip on a diamond ring!

#### Plan For A Double Career

It unfolds like the dream of a girl who wants both home and a career in business, this romantic story of Ruth Waddill Combs who attributes her success to the instruction she received at her alma mater, the Traphagen School of Fashion, 1680 Broadway, New York.

Sugar and spice are the stock in trade of Mrs. Combs. Her "Little Gal Glamour" clothes for 3-to-12 year olds are made by her own thriving company in Hendersonville, North Carolina, and it is a business with more than one unusual feature. It is a "hometown industry" and many families consider it a blessing to the community.

When Ruth Waddill graduated from Traphagen after a course majoring in draping, design and clothing construction, the school's Placement Bureau immediately started her off in her first position. But it was not long before she was a bride, and soon, taking care of her own little girl, now 14, was a



full-time job. But she practised on this lifesize doll and began taking a special interest in children's clothes.

Three years ago, with time on her capable hands again, the idea for Ruth Originals Corporation began to take shape. She again became a designer and also a business woman, and she worked out an original plan of operation. The know-how, gained in her school training and brief trade experience was all she needed to carry through. She made a unique departure from other manufacturers methods for she gave the farmers' wives in her community a real "break." The children's dresses Mrs. Combs manufactures are cut and seams stitched in her plant. Then, about 70 rural women take over, all accomplished seamstresses. They are housewives and farmwives, many are the mothers of half a dozen children, with chickens and barnyard animals to tend in addition. They give as much or as little time as they can spare for sewing. They augment the family income, at going rates of pay without leaving home, and at the same time do the finishing and put in the hand touches which make these little dresses the kind mothers and small girls treasure. It keeps the garments selling briskly in the nation's leading stores.

Mrs. Combs was in New York a short time ago to visit her showroom and buy fabrics, and she returned to Traphagen School for a brief refresher course in the latest clothing construction techniques. Coming to the city is always wonderful, she says, but she is even happier when she heads South again, back to the dual creative career of home and business she has made for herself.

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### Deplores Hercules' Removal

To those interested in the preservation of old landmarks, old names and historical treasures I think the most discouraging perpetration in a lifetime was the removal of that good old salt Hercules from his 66-year lookout beside the road where the races of men go by, and where, at Canoe Place, he could hear old ocean roar, to that quiet inland village green of far-off Stony Brook.

Reading the anniversary edition of the News-Review of Riverhead, I note on the history of Canoe Place and Good Ground, settled about 1653, the following item: "Across the road in front of the hostelry was the figurehead Hercules from the U. S. frigate Ohio, dismantled in Greenport in 1884. It originally belonged to a man named Aldrich in Aquebogue, then was sold to the inn or its proprietor. It has been lately removed to Stony Brook."

Of course no history of Good Ground (Hampton Bays) could be complete without an item on Hercules. John Elliott Aldrich of Aquebogue was a very prominent builder on the east end and built many of the early summer homes in the Hamptons, including in 1879 the John Henry Young homestead now owned by Supreme Court Justice Henry J. Wenzel Jr. of the Appellate Division.

A daughter of John Elliott Aldrich, Mrs. Wesley Warner of Aquebogue, remembers well when her father brought Hercules from Greenport and had him in the "shop" all winter where he was entirely coated with real gold-leaf and later taken to Canoe Place.

So many people have been interested in Hercules, I wish we could hear more about him through the Forum, so beloved by Long Islanders. I noted the letter you ran from Charles J. McDermott of Madison, N. J. who wrote: I would like to see him back at Good Ground." Good Ground indeed! Where did that "Hampton Bays" stuff ever come from? I suppose



Old Time Inn at Canoe Place

from "the commercials" who even took away our old wind mill at Orient to make a Roman Holiday at the Glen Island Amusement Park.

While I was at Gloversville last May at the Congregational Conference I met a Mr. Moffat, a former pastor of the Aquebogue (Steeple) Church. He now has a larger church at Watertown, N. Y. While at Aquebogue he made an inten-

sive study of the history of eastern Long Island. When the subject of Hercules came up I found a kindred soul and many were the legends we exchanged about Hercules during his long vigil at Canoe Place where he served as a wishing well and was often consulted by young lovers seeking approval of their matrimonial plans.

Ezra Hallock Young  
Orient

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**South Bay Can Be Tough**

A number of readers have made reference to hurricanes, tornadoes and twisters, but I wonder how many of them ever went through one out on the water. Some years ago I was at Fire Island with a party of friends, having crossed Great South Bay in a cabin cruiser. We noticed that the breakers in the ocean were particularly heavy, and the inlet looked pretty ominous although the day was clear.

About four o'clock a very dark cloud fairly rushed in from the northwest and sent us scurrying back to our boat. As we began the passage across the bay we saw considerable lightning to the northwest and heard some heavy thunder. After passing West Island we were approaching buoy eight when the ferry to Ocean Beach sped past us. A few minutes later torrential rain came down. It became so dark that those in the stern of the cruiser could not see the bow except when lightning illuminated the turbulent bay all around us.

One high wave came in under the stern and swept the boat along almost beyond control. About then everyone put on life belts. I went below to find one for the man at the wheel when I smelled smoke. We opened the hatch above the engine and found it had become overheated and was beginning to burn the wood nearby. Someone grabbed an extinguisher and doused what might have become a real fire.

Unfortunately, however, either the extinguisher's fluid or the seawater that sprayed in through the

hatchway stopped the engine. After trying for some time to start it, we threw out an anchor, then another, and, believe it or not, the cruiser dragged both. How far we would have drifted, God only knows. But suddenly the wind subsided, the waves went down, the rain stopped and before long we were continuing homeward in a rather calm sea.

It's really surprising how a good sized cabin cruiser can be tossed around on the Great South Bay.

Oscar O. Hart  
Brooklyn.

**Father Crawford's Second Volume**

Volume two of "The Daughters of Dominic on Long Island", by the Rev. Eugene Crawford, continues the history of the order in this, the Brooklyn Diocese, from 1938, the end of Volume One, to the present day. Whereas the first volume, published in 1939, covers early Dominican history here (its birthplace in America in 1853), the latest work shows the increase in parochial schools, convents, hospitals, summer camps, and foreign missions.

As with the first volume, this one is published by Benziger Brothers, Inc., of New York, from whom copies may be ordered.

The author is the Spiritual Director of the Sisters of St. Dominic, with headquarters at Amityville. He is also Assistant Visitor General for Religious Communities of the Brooklyn Diocese, and is well-known as a retreat master.

**Historic Spoon**

In July 1895 following the unveiling in the old Southold cemetery of the granite memorial in honor of Fanny Ledyard Peters by the Mystic (Ct.) DAR concerning which Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood wrote in the November Forum, there was presented to the same organization a spoon memorializing the marriage 130 years earlier in 1765 of Southold's Abigail Hempstead Ledyard, mother of John Ledyard the Traveler, and her second husband Dr. Micah Moore the village physician.

The spoon bore the monogram MAM (Micah and Abigail Moore) and had been taken during the turbulent Revolutionary days by a British soldier from Widow Moore's

Continued on back cover

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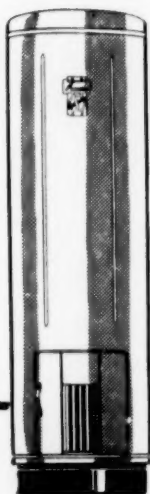
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### Letters From Our Readers

Continued from page 18

tavern. The spoon had come into the possession of their daughter Phebe Moore Wickham Smith Denison of Stonington, Ct., and was presented to the Mystic DAR by her grandson Chandler Smith.

While the Traveler's half-sister Phebe was living with her third husband Deacon Ebenezer Denison in his ancient house at Mystic Bridge after "the table was one day cleared" the spoon again came up missing. For another thirty years the spoon for the second time remained lost.

One day a tree which Phebe had assisted in planting at her Connecticut home was struck by lightning. As the damaged tree was being cut down the axe of the workman struck a shining object buried in the tree.

It was the twice lost spoon marked MAM. It had been unwittingly tossed out with table crumbs so that it became lodged within the bark of the tree. During three decades the tree had grown around the spoon hiding it deeper and deeper.

Embedded in a piece of oak taken from the 17th century Moore-Case house at Southold from whence it had been purloined by an enemy soldier so long ago, the spoon is still preserved in the historical archives at Mystic.

Upton Downs

### Aids Church History

My file of Forums has been very helpful complementing my church history work and tracing old families. Every number is so good. Irene (Mrs. Leslie H.) MacRobbie, Patchogue.

Am enjoying the Forum very much. (Miss) Rose Kirk, Patchogue.

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